

Bees at Work

In every hive, there are three kinds of bees: the queen, the drones, and the workers. The queen and the drones work to lay eggs so that new bees will be born. The workers run the hive, keeping it healthy and comfortable. The workers also do things to make the hive a nice place to live, such as finding food for the other bees.

Worker bees like to build beehives in hidden places, such as inside hollow logs. Using wax, they make groups of cells known as *combs*. The queen lays one egg inside each cell.

It takes about fifteen days for each bee to hatch. These new bees stay in the nest. Their job is to help clean out used cells and to feed the next set of baby bees. Then the new worker bees learn to make wax. They use the wax to repair or make new cells.

As a worker bee gets older, its job changes. Its next job might be to guard the opening to the hive. Guarding is an important job and one that is filled with danger. A bee can be killed while guarding the hive.

Finally, older worker bees get to fly out of the hive. They look in flowers for nectar and pollen, which the bees use for food.



Date: _____

1. What does *comfortable* mean, as used in this article? [1]

(a) pleasant

(c) awful

(b) busy

(d) alive

2. What is the main job of the drone? [1]

3. What do the bees use to make and repair cells in the hive? [1]

4. What job does the worker bees have after guarding the entrance of the hive? [2]

5. Describe the beehive made by the bees. Use information from the passage to help you. [2]

6. What is the first job worker bees have after they are born? [2]

7. Explain why the worker bee is so important to the hive? [3]

8a. Does the worker bee job stays the same? Write yes or no. [1]

8b. Use information from the passage to support your answer. [2]

10. Write **F** for fact and **O** for opinion for the following sentences. [3]

___ The queen lays one egg inside each cell.

___ A bees believe that they can be killed while guarding the hive.

___ It takes about fifteen days for each bee to hatch.